

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and Response to Office Action is filed in response to the Office Action of May 16, 2005. Presently, claims 11-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,092,137 issued to Huang et al. ("Huang et al." hereafter); and claims 1-10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the same Huang et al. These rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are overcome for the reasons stated below.

I. Rejection of Claims 11-13 and 15 as Being Anticipated by Huang et al.

Claims 11-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Huang et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, updating said access priority grades based on a clock cycle. In other words, the method and system according to the claimed invention timely adjust the access priority grades on a clock cycle basis. See page 10, lines 8-12 of the specification: "...at the end of the last of the M clocks in each counting cycle, a strobe signal *down-count_strobe* 311, 312 and 313 for cycles 301, 302 and 303 respectively is issued to each of the Down-Counter Timer in the Counter Array 270 of the embodiment of Figure 2. Upon reception of this strobe signal, each of the Counters 271, 272,... and 273 counts down by a value of 1."

In contrast, in Huang et al., the adjustment of the access priority grades PWV (step S40) takes place in a processing sequence that is repeatedly triggered by the issuance of access requests from a plurality of request agents at step S34. See FIG. 3, col. 5, lines 20-35: "After PWV adjustment step S40, steps S34 through S40 are repeated to allow subsequent bus access".

In other words, Huang et al. teaches a method in which the adjustment of the access priority grades is based on the event of issuance of access requests by the request agents. Huang et al. thus fails to teach a method and system in which the access priority grades are updated on a clock cycle basis, as amended claim 11 requires.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 11 patently distinguishes from Huang et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipation rejection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Based on at least the same reasons, it is submitted that claims 13 and 15 dependent upon claim 11 also patently distinguish from Huang et al. Withdrawal of the rejection to these claims thus is also respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-10 and 14 as Being Unpatentable Over Huang et al.

Claims 1-10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include one element reciting that one or more of said access priority grades loaded in said counter timers are timely updated on a clock cycle basis.

As discussed above, the method and system taught in Huang et al. does not have the access priority grades updated on a clock cycle basis, but instead adjusts the access priority grades based on the event of issuance of access requests by the request agents.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 6 patently distinguish from Huang et al. By virtue of their respective dependency on patentable claims 1, 6 and 11, dependent claims 2-5, 7-10 and 14 should also be patentable over the cited reference.

Serial No. 10/614,676
Attorney Docket No. 68146241-005011

III. Submission of New Claims 16-18

New claims 16-18 are submitted for consideration. Examination and allowance of these new claims are respectfully requested.

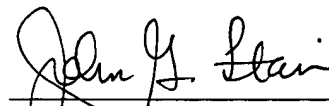
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all of pending claims 1-11 and 13-18 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned. Because this filing is submitted within the three-month deadline, no Petition for Extension of Time is required. Applicants believe that no fees are required in connection with this filing; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to withdraw any funds deemed necessary from deposit account 13-0480, Attorney Docket No. 68146241-005011.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this filing or the application in general, Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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